



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Website: www.woodburyumc.net

Office: (203) 263-4775 • Fax: (203) 263-5867

Email: www.woodburyumc.net



Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

The Life of the Church

by Mark Davis, Lay Leader

November 27, 2020

Dear Church Family,

It has been only two weeks since Pastor John provided an update on our response to the ‘third wave’ of COVID-19 and our technical team’s progress on returning to livestreaming of broadcasts. A lot has happened in the interim.

WUMC’s COVID Recovery Team (CRT) has been closely monitoring the situation in Woodbury, surrounding communities, and CT. We have been meeting weekly since early November. And, we have expanded our team, now comprising Pastor John, Bud Behlman, Mark Davis, Paul Hibbard, Rae Ann Hockenberry, Catherine Mason, Venetia Phillippe, and Meg Temple. Please feel free to call any team member to discuss any concerns or ideas regarding improved safety protocols you may have.

CT guidelines for churches under rollback Phase 2.1 is 50% of sanctuary capacity up to a maximum of 100 people. Our weekly attendance has been between 20 to 30 people, including worship leaders. This represents 12% of our sanctuary’s maximum capacity. Despite cooling weather during the fall, we continue to bring in fresh air and exhaust stale air to the outside, while maintaining a comfortable temperature in the sanctuary during somewhat abbreviated services. The CRT team feels that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety and well being of our in-person worshippers.

However, we are concerned that the increasing outbreak within CT and across the US, along with the holidays, represent additional risk. Please prayerfully consider tough decisions you have to make during the next two months regarding expanding your ‘bubble’ and celebrating the holidays with extended family and friends. As a reminder, if members of your immediate family work, go to school or gather in close contact (without masks, proper social distancing or enhanced ventilation) with people outside of your immediate family unit, please refrain from attending worship services in person for 14 days after doing so. We also understand that going forward more people may choose to watch services remotely, which is understandable. The CRT team will continue to monitor the evolving situation, and may decide to transition back to an entirely virtual church life in the coming days.

The good news is that the Board of Trustees and Finance recently approved the purchase of video components required to upgrade our livestreaming capabilities to resolve nagging issues and improve system reliability. The upgraded system has been installed thanks to Levi Phillippe and Theron Kissinger. We plan to perform a trial livestream this Sunday. If things go well, we hope to transition to livestreaming of services to all, starting December 6th.

Finally, the Worship Ministry Team is working to include as many members of our extended church family as possible in our Christmas Eve service through virtual means (e.g., virtual choir, recorded family greetings). We hope most of you choose to participate in these opportunities, so that we can all see you, even if it isn’t in person, during this special service.

Mark Davis, Lay Leader